# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

In re	Jointly Administered under Case No. 08-45257
Petters Company, Inc., et al.,	Court File No. 08-45257
Debtors.	
	Court File Nos.:
(includes: Petters Group Worldwide, LLC;	08-45258 (GFK)
PC Funding, LLC;	08-45326 (GFK)
Thousand Lakes, LLC;	08-45327 (GFK)
SPF Funding, LLC;	08-45328 (GFK)
PL Ltd., Inc.;	08-45329 (GFK)
Edge One LLC;	08-45330 (GFK)
MGC Finance, Inc.;	08-45331 (GFK)
PAC Funding, LLC;	08-45371 (GFK)
Palm Beach Finance Holdings, Inc.)	08-45392 (GFK)
	Chapter 11 Cases
	Judge Gregory F. Kishel
Douglas A. Kelley, in his capacity as the court-appointed Chapter 11 Trustee of Debtor Petters Group Worldwide, LLC.,	
Plaintiff,	
VS.	ADV. NO
JPMorgan Chase & Co., and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.,	
Defendants.	
COMPLAINT	

Douglas A. Kelley, in his capacity as the court-appointed Chapter 11 Trustee of Petters Group Worldwide, LLC ("PGW") by and through his legal counsel, Fruth, Jamison & Elsass, PLLC, brings this Complaint against Defendants JPMorgan Chase & Co. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A, to recover \$300,000 in preferential transfers and avoid certain obligations upon which those payments were purportedly based. Plaintiff, based on actual knowledge and upon information and belief, states and alleges as follows:

## **PARTIES**

- 1. PGW is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. PGW is, and at all times relevant herein was, wholly owned by Thomas Joseph Petters, an individual and citizen of the state of Minnesota ("Petters"). PGW served as a holding company for many businesses that Petters owned and controlled.
- 2. Defendant JPMorgan Chase & Co., ("JPMorgan") is a corporation organized under the laws of the state of New York and has its principal place of business in New York, New York.
- 3. Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A., ("JPMorgan Bank") is a national banking association chartered under the laws of the United States and has its principal place of business in New York, New York. JPMorgan Bank is owned and controlled by JPMorgan.

## PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

4. On October 3, 2008, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1345, the United States District Court of the District of Minnesota (the "District Court") placed PGW into receivership in civil litigation commenced by the United States of America against,

among others, Petters, PGW and Petters Company, Inc. ("PCI") (Court File No. 08-CV-5348) (the "Receivership Action").

- 5. By Order of the District Court in the Receivership Action dated October 6, 2008, as subsequently amended and restated on December 8, 2008, the District Court appointed Douglas A. Kelley, Esq. ("Kelley") as equity receiver (the "Receiver") of any affiliates, subsidiaries, divisions, successors, or assigns owned 100% or controlled by Petters, including PGW and PCI.
- 6. As the court-appointed Receiver, Kelley serves as an agent of the District Court and in that capacity had exclusive custody, control and possession of the property, assets and estates of PGW and PCI.
- 7. On October 11, 2008 (the "Petition Date"), PGW and PCI, at the Receiver's direction, filed a petition for relief under Chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") in Court File No. 08-45257.
- 8. On October 22, 2008 this Court ordered the above-captioned Bankruptcy cases to be administratively consolidated as *In re Petters Company, Inc., et al.*, under case number 08-45257.
- 9. On February 26, 2009, this Court approved the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Minnesota's appointment of Kelley (the "Trustee"), as the Chapter 11 Trustee for all Chapter 11 debtors in this jointly administered matter, which specifically included appointing Kelley as the Chapter 11 Trustee of PGW.

## JURISDICTION, VENUE AND STANDING

- 10. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. The claims asserted herein arise under the Bankruptcy Code and are related to cases pending before this Court pursuant to the Bankruptcy Code.
- 11. This adversary proceeding is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(b)(2)(A), (B), (C), (E), (F), (H) and (O).
  - 12. Venue in this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 13. The Trustee has standing to assert the claims herein pursuant to Sections 323, 544, 547, 548, 550, 551, and 1106 of the Bankruptcy Code.

### **NATURE OF PROCEEDING**

- 14. The Trustee brings this adversary proceeding against the Defendants pursuant to sections 105(a), 502, 506, 542, 544, 547, 548(a), 550(a), 551 and 1106 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Minnesota Fraudulent Transfer Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 513.41-51, and if the Court should determine that this action is governed by the laws of other states, the fraudulent transfer laws of such other states and other applicable law, to recover fraudulent transfers, preferential transfers, damages and disgorgement, prevent unjust enrichment and to impose a constructive trust, in connection with transfers of property by PGW to Defendants.
- 15. Defendants are initial transferees of the fraudulent, preferential or other avoidable transfers alleged in this Complaint, or are the intended beneficiaries of such

transfers or are the immediate or mediate transferees of any initial transferee of such transfers.

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

### THE PETTERS PONZI SCHEME

- 16. This adversary proceeding arises from a massive fraud and Ponzi scheme designed and orchestrated principally by Petters, and business organizations that he directly or indirectly owned and controlled.
- 17. The multi-billion dollar Petters Ponzi scheme is well documented and many of those involved have pleaded guilty to perpetrating various aspects of the fraud. The scheme's central figure, Petters, was convicted by a jury and sentenced to 50 years in prison for his leading role in perpetrating this massive fraud. On September 29, 2010, PCI and PGW each pleaded guilty to wire fraud, conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering.
- 18. Petters has multiple felony convictions for crimes involving fraud and dishonesty. He was convicted of forgery, larceny, and fraud in Colorado in 1989 and served time in jail for these crimes. In 1990, in Minnesota, Petters was charged with two counts of theft by check. Petters pled guilty to one count and the other count was dismissed. Petters also had numerous court judgments entered against him in civil matters over the years.
- 19. Petters operated the Ponzi scheme through business organizations that he directly or indirectly owned and controlled from approximately 1993 through on or about the date of his arrest by federal agents on October 3, 2008. Petters, through various

entities that he controlled, including PCI, PGW, Petters Consumer Brands, LLC ("PCB"), and Petters Capital, LLC ("Petters Capital"), laundered what is estimated to be an amount in excess of \$40 billion.

- 20. At various times during the course of the Ponzi scheme, Petters was assisted in the operation of the scheme by numerous individuals and conspirators (the "Associates"). Some of these Associates have pleaded guilty to various crimes relating to the Ponzi scheme. Other Associates who participated in or aided and abetted the fraud may also face criminal or civil actions as the investigation of the Ponzi scheme continues.
- 21. The scheme orchestrated by Petters and his Associates was a common species of fraud known as a Ponzi scheme. Petters, through a multitude of entities and with the assistance of his Associates, would induce investors into financing the purchase of non-existent electronic equipment purportedly secured by fabricated purchase orders or otherwise provide financing for fabricated purposes. Petters used funds invested by later investors and repay initial investors.
- 22. Petters, through PCI, PGW, and a multitude of shell companies through which he operated, intended that the payments to early investors would induce ongoing, repeated, greater, and more widespread investment in the Ponzi scheme and thereby further and perpetuate the fraud.
- 23. To obtain investors in the Ponzi scheme, Petters and his Associates portrayed PCI as a middleman that purchased consumer electronic goods or other goods from wholesalers and resold the merchandise to large, "big box" retailers such as Costco, Sam's Club, and B.J.'s.

- 24. Petters and his Associates prepared and utilized fabricated documents that were represented to investors to be equipment purchase orders and related documents. The fabricated documents included, but are not limited to, (1) purchase orders from PCI to suppliers purportedly ordering electronic goods, and (2) purchase orders from retailers to PCI purportedly ordering electronic goods for purchase from PCI. The purchase orders and the related documents were fictitious.
- 25. PCI would show a "profit" on each transaction because PCI's fabricated purchase order from the big box retailer for the merchandise was always in an amount greater than the amount of PCI's fabricated purchase order to its supplier for the same nonexistent merchandise. Petters and his Associates, through PCI, created fictitious profits at will on every transaction by simply writing in the appropriate quantity and price information on the two sets of purchase orders to "produce" the necessary funds.
- 26. Because the transactions described in the fictitious purchase orders in fact did not exist, the only way PCI was able to transfer sufficient funds to investors was by money obtained from other investors, in other words, through the operation, control and management of the Ponzi scheme by Petters and his Associates.
- 27. Over the years, Petters raised billions of dollars through his scheme.

  Petters' Ponzi scheme relied on a few key feeder funds, the owners of which either knew or should have known about the fraud. These funds would raise money from unsuspecting investors and then funnel the money to Petters in exchange for the false profits that generated a consistent return on investment far above anything these funds could achieve by investing in legitimate businesses. Among the feeder funds that bought

notes from PCI were funds controlled by another defendant in the Ponzi scheme, Gregory Bell ("Bell"). Bell controlled at least three funds known as the "Lancelot Funds."

- 28. Bell and the Lancelot Funds raised approximately \$2.6 billion dollars between 2001 and August 2008. Almost all of this money was used to invest in the Ponzi scheme. On October 7, 2009, Bell pleaded guilty to wire fraud in connection with his transactions with Petters and was recently sentenced to five years in prison.
- 29. Other significant Ponzi scheme feeder funds included Epsilon and a related entity called Stafford Towne Limited ("Epsilon/Stafford Towne), as well as a fund known as Metro Gem. Metro Gem is one of a number of businesses owned and controlled by Frank E. Vennes, Jr. ("Vennes"). Vennes had extensive business dealings with Petters and earned millions of dollars in finder's fees for locating Ponzi scheme investors for Petters. Vennes is a convicted felon and served time in prison in the late 1980s and early 1990s for money laundering and other crimes.
- 30. Epsilon/Stafford Towne, Metro Gem and other feeder funds have been sued by the Trustee for PCI and PGW, to recover hundreds of millions of dollars in false profits they received from the Ponzi scheme.
- 31. In the end, Petters proved to be an accomplished fraudster but a terrible businessman. Neither PCI nor any other business that Petters owned actually made money. Business losses among the Petters companies were routinely propped up by proceeds from the Ponzi scheme.
- 32. Despite his mountain of failed businesses, Petters and some of his

  Associates enjoyed a lavish lifestyle funded entirely by the massive Ponzi scheme. Some

of Petters' cronies and Ponzi scheme investors who were lucky or smart enough to get out early also made millions. However, among the individuals and businesses that actually profited from the Ponzi scheme, few, if any, did better than JPMC.

#### JPMC'S ASSOICIATION WITH PETTERS

## **Petters Begins His Relationship With JPMC**

- 33. JPMorgan, JPMorgan Bank, and a private equity fund that is owned and controlled by JPMorgan, One Equity Partners ("One Equity")(collectively, "JPMC"), have had multifaceted involvement with Petters and his giant Ponzi scheme that goes back many years. Petters first opened an investment account with JP Morgan in 2001. Petters opened this investment account as a place to put phony profits generated by the Ponzi scheme. Courtney Cavatoni ("Cavatoni") was the lead banker responsible for the overall relationship between Petters and JPMC. Cavatoni spoke frequently with Petters and his Associates and met with Petters at least annually to review his investments.
- 34. Over the years, the relationship between JPMC and Petters blossomed.

  Petters opened additional investment accounts with Cavatoni. Between June 2002 and September 2007, more than \$83 million flowed into these investment accounts.
- 35. Upon information and belief, all of the money that flowed into these investment accounts was derived from the fraudulent Ponzi scheme. This includes but is not limited to: (1) \$60 million from PCI; (2) \$2.5 million from PGW; and (3) more than \$11 million from other entities Petters controlled.

#### JPMC Issues a Credit Line to PGW

- 36. On March 13, 2006, JPMC issued PGW an \$8 million credit line. This credit line was secured by Petters' personal guaranty dated March 16, 2006, and by a collateral agreement that pledged two of his investment accounts.
- 37. On May 2, 2006, PGW's credit line was increased to \$20 million and the collateral agreement was amended to add an additional Petters investment account as collateral.
- 38. On September 19, 2006, Cavatoni and a number of other JPMC bankers met with Petters and several PGW officers and employees at PGW's offices in Minnetonka, Minnesota. On information and belief, the purpose of this meeting was to further solidify the banking relationship between JPMC and Petters and obtain an increase in the PGW credit line. This meeting included Mary Jeffries, PGW's President and Chief Operating Officer, as well as Camille Chee-Awai, who was a principal of feeder fund Epsilon/Stafford Towne and was also acting as head of Petters Capital. The meeting included a presentation about PGW and its purported successful businesses. The presentation made numerous claims about PGW's business that were misleading and, in many instances, patently false. For instance, the presentation described Petters Capital as a "captive finance company" for which Petters had provided all the equity capital and that "had approximately \$220 million in equity and \$298 million of interest yielding assets."
- 39. JPMC knew or should have known that the claims made about Petters' businesses were false. Petters could not have provided \$220 million in real equity to Petters Capital or any other entity because Petters had no source of capital other than the

Ponzi scheme. The "interest yielding assets" that were touted for Petters Capital were nothing more than IOU's that Petters Capital had received from Petters or his money losing businesses. JPMC knew or should have known the truth about Petters Capital because, as discussed below, Petters Capital was instrumental in funding Petters' purchase of Polaroid from JPMC in 2005.

40. One of the possible reasons Petters needed the PGW credit line extended was to purchase a 50% interest in Sun Country Airlines. Petters accomplished this purchase in October 2006, using his investment accounts at JPMC and the PGW credit line in a Byzantine series of transfers that can only be explained as an attempt to launder funds. The transfers included eight separate transfers from PCI into Petters' personal investment accounts totaling \$17.5 million. On October 31, 2006, Petters caused \$15 million to be transferred to the PGW credit line. Then \$15 million was transferred from the PGW credit line to another Petters-owned company called Thomas Petters, Inc. ("TPI"). On the same day, TPI transferred \$15 million to another Petters-owned company, Petters Aviation, LLC, which then purchased 50% of Sun Country Airlines that same day. On November 2, 2006, Petters transferred \$15 million back to the PGW credit line. Although the convoluted nature of these transactions strongly suggests an attempt by Petters to launder funds and conceal their origin, JPMC never raised any concerns about these transactions.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The other 50% in Sun Country Airlines was purchased by White Box Advisors, a hedge fund based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In November 2007, Petters Aviation acquired White Box Advisors' 50% interest in Sun Country. Like other Petters businesses, Sun Country lost money and was propped up with Ponzi scheme proceeds. Sun Country Airlines filed bankruptcy soon after federal agents raided Petters' offices.

- 41. On September 26, 2006, one week after the PGW presentation, JPMC increased the PGW credit line to \$40 million dollars. This apparently was based solely on the fact that Petters' personal investment accounts held at JPMC were securing the loan. To secure this increase, a new collateral agreement was prepared that added another Petters investment account as well as his ownership interest in various hedge funds held at JPMC. However, this revised collateral agreement was not signed until March 25, 2008.
- 42. When JPMC learned about the September 24, 2008, raid of Petters' offices by federal agents, JPMC declared the PGW credit line in default. On or about September 30, 2008, JPMC seized and began to liquidate the approximately \$25 million in securities then held in Petters' personal investment accounts. At the time, JPMC claimed that PGW owed about \$19,641,000 on its credit line.
- 43. As of October 6, 2008, JPMC had seized and liquidated \$18.1 million of the assets in Petters' investment accounts. By seizing and liquidating the investment account assets, JPMC reduced the balance on the PGW credit line to \$1,500,000 from a pre-raid balance of \$19,641,000. Some of the asset sales by JPMC were not completed until after the October 3, 2008, Freeze Order was issued, which froze all of Petters' assets.
- 44. By seizing and liquidating Petters' investment accounts after news of the federal raid, JPMC stepped ahead of the Ponzi scheme's victims and creditors to recover

the nearly \$20 million that PGW allegedly owed under the credit line.<sup>2</sup> This fraudulent transfer, however, is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to JPMC's extensive business dealings with Petters and represents only a small fraction of the Ponzi scheme proceeds that JPMC received from Petters and his businesses.

## JPMC AND THE POLAROID ACQUISITION

- 45. During the same period that Petters was moving tens of millions of dollars of fraud proceeds through his JPMC investment accounts, JPMC engineered a transaction with Petters that would generate hundreds of millions of dollars for JPMC. This transaction was the acquisition of Polaroid Holding Company for \$426 million in April 2005. The acquisition was accomplished through a merger of Polaroid Holding Company and PCB (the "Merger"), pursuant to a merger agreement among PGW, PCB and Polaroid Holding Company dated January 7, 2005. Prior to the Merger, JPMC, directly or indirectly, controlled and was majority owner of Polaroid Holding Company.
- 46. JPMC earned substantial fees and profits for the numerous roles it played in the Merger. JPMC was the: (i) seller, as it was the majority owner and controlled Polaroid; (ii) financier, as it loaned more than \$185 million dollars to Polaroid immediately following the Merger (but only after Petters funded the purchase of Polaroid with Ponzi scheme proceeds and caused Polaroid to grant JPMC a first secured lien on all of Polaroid's assets); (iii) syndicate manager, as it formed and managed a syndicate of banks that would participate in JPMC's loans to Polaroid; and (iv) financial advisor, as it

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Douglas Kelley, as the Receiver for Petters, intends to pursue a claim in District Court to recover these transfers out of Petters personal investment accounts.

served as investment advisor on the Merger, generating millions in fees that were paid at the closing out of Polaroid's cash. Although its roles as lender and investment advisor generated as much as \$40 million in fees and interest for JPMC, that figure is dwarfed by the profits JPMC earned by selling its Polaroid ownership stake to PCB.

- 47. JPMorgan acquired its ownership stake in Polaroid by acquiring One Equity as part of its merger with Bank One in early 2004. One Equity had purchased Polaroid's assets out of another bankruptcy in July 2002. One Equity's purchase of Polaroid Corporation's assets was structured as a leveraged buyout ("LBO"). In a conventional LBO, an investor buys the stock of a company financed in part with the acquired company's cash and with debt that will be serviced by the acquired company's cash flow and secured by the acquired company's assets.
- 48. When it purchased Polaroid's assets out of bankruptcy, One Equity formed Polaroid Holding Company ("PHC").<sup>3</sup> PHC then issued to One Equity 580,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock for \$58 million and 20,000,000 shares of common stock for \$2 million. This stock represented a 65% holding in PHC, with 35% of the ownership granted to Polaroid's former shareholders and creditors in the bankruptcy case. By the end of 2004, One Equity had caused PHC to use its cash to redeem all of One Equity's Series A preferred stock for \$58 million plus accrued interest. Put another way, by the end of 2004, One Equity had recouped nearly its entire investment in Polaroid.

<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise indicted by the context, Polaroid Corporation and Polaroid Holding Company are referred to herein as ("Polaroid").

49. Soon after it bought Polaroid out of bankruptcy, One Equity installed one of its own managing directors, Jacques Nasser ("Nasser"), as Polaroid's chairman. One Equity, and by extension JPMC, would remain the majority owner and in control of Polaroid until its merger with PCB in 2005.

## Polaroid's Business Declines Rapidly

50. After the LBO, Polaroid's revenues declined rapidly. Polaroid's core business, instant film and cameras, was drying up due to the onset of digital cameras and digital photography. According to Polaroid's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Polaroid's revenue was \$808 million in 2002, \$753 million in 2003, and \$656 million in 2004. As of December 2004, Polaroid projected revenue for 2005 of only \$515 million. As the decline of Polaroid's core business accelerated, One Equity searched for ways to generate additional revenue for Polaroid. This included efforts to license the Polaroid brand.

## PCI Acquires a License for the Polaroid Brand

51. On information and belief, on or about September 1, 2002, PCI entered into a license agreement with Polaroid, which was amended in December 2002 as the Amended and Restated License Agreement ("License Agreement"). The License Agreement allowed PCI to use the Polaroid brand on home DVD players, home cinema systems, televisions, and combination television/DVD players. In return, PCI was to pay Polaroid a royalty of 3% for each licensed device PCI sold with a minimum payment of between \$1 million to \$4 million per year between 2003 and 2006.

- 52. In January 2003, Petters formed PCB as an independent operating company of PGW. The plan was for PCB to contract with overseas manufacturers to make portable DVD players and televisions under the Polaroid brand and then sell them to big box retailers such as Wal-mart, Target, and Best Buy. Unlike PCI, PCB actually sold merchandise. However, PCB's margins were so low that its business could not be sustained without inflows of capital from the Ponzi scheme and its investors.
- 53. In 2003, PCB generated \$119 million in sales, but its gross margin was only 5.2% and it lost nearly \$5.5 million. In 2004, PCB's sales grew to \$282 million, but its gross margin shrank to just 2.1% and it lost nearly \$15 million. To fund these losses, Petters looked to his usual Ponzi scheme investors.
- 54. For instance, in 2004, PCB entered into a series of promissory notes with Thousand Lakes, LLC, one of the Ponzi scheme's special purpose entities set up by Petters to receive funding from Bell and the Lancelot Funds. These notes carried an annual interest rate of 18%. As of December 31, 2004, PCB owed Thousand Lakes in excess of \$42 million.

## **Polaroid Threatens to Terminate the License Agreement**

55. At the same time losses were mounting at PCB, Polaroid began to harass Petters about the Polaroid license and began making threats to terminate it. These threats culminated in a meeting with Petters, Nasser and J. Michael Pocock, PHC's Chief Executive Officer and President, in New York City on September 2, 2004, at the Four Seasons Restaurant. At this meeting, Nasser threatened that unless Petters agreed to purchase Polaroid, Polaroid could terminate its license.

- 56. Nasser had a strong motivation to convince Petters to buy Polaroid. As a reward for becoming Chairman of Polaroid, Nasser had been issued more than one million shares of Polaroid stock. On information and belief, Nasser and JPMC knew Polaroid's core business, instant film, was rapidly deteriorating and a quick sale to Petters would be their best hope for a big payday.
- 57. For Petters, the purchase of Polaroid would eliminate Polaroid's ability to harass and threaten PCB over its license. It would also provide an opportunity to help Petters launder some of the Ponzi scheme fraud proceeds by using them to acquire a legitimate business that at least momentarily generated positive cash flow. Petters eventually agreed to purchase Polaroid for approximately \$426 million and merge Polaroid with PCB (the "Merger"). The Merger was announced on January 7, 2005.

## Ponzi Scheme Funds are Used to Fund the Polaroid Merger

- 58. To increase its profit on the sale of Polaroid and to ensure the transaction would be completed, JPMC agreed to help finance the transaction. The financing (the "Credit Facility") consisted of a \$125 million Fixed-Asset Term Loan (the "Term Loan") and a \$225 million asset-based revolving loan (the "Revolver"). Because the amount loaned on the Revolver was based on Polaroid's receivables and inventory, only \$60 million was advanced initially.
- 59. Despite the fact that JPMC was going to provide more than \$185 million in financing, PCB was required to come up with the entire purchase price and place the money into two escrow accounts prior to closing. One escrow account would hold a \$40 million breakup fee and the other would hold the balance of the purchase price. The

escrow accounts were in the name of and controlled by PCB and PGW ("Petters Escrow Accounts").

- 60. To fund the Petters Escrow Accounts, Petters used money funneled from the Ponzi scheme and its stable of feeder funds, including Lancelot (Bell), Metro Gem (Vennes) and Epsilon/Stafford Towne. A significant portion of this money was funneled from PCI or its lenders through Petters Capital. Petters Capital played a key role in funding the Polaroid transaction, as at least \$241 million of the money that was used to fund the Petters Escrow Accounts was transferred through it. Petters Capital had no operating business and appears to have been formed solely as a conduit through which PCI money or that of its lenders flowed into the Petters Escrow Accounts.
- 61. In summary, all of the money that Petters used to fund the Polaroid acquisition flowed into the Petters Escrow Accounts as follows:
  - \$106 million was transferred from PCI into Petters Capital and then into the Petters Escrow Accounts.
  - \$11.1 million was transferred from PCI to PCB (n/k/a Polaroid) and then into the Petters Escrow Accounts.
  - \$7.9 million was transferred from PCI to the Petters Escrow Accounts.
  - \$100 million was transferred from Lancelot Funds to Petters Capital and then to the Petters Escrow Accounts.
  - \$125 million was transferred from Lancelot Funds to the Petters Escrow Accounts.
  - \$97 million was transferred from Epsilon/Stafford Town to PCB and then \$50 million was transferred to the Petters Escrow Accounts (approximately \$47 million was transferred back from PCB to Epsilon/Stafford Town).

• \$35 million was transferred from Metro Gem to Petters Capital and then to the Petters Escrow Accounts.

# JPMC Structures the Polaroid Acquisition to Distance Itself from the Funding While Reaping Millions in Fees and Interest

- 62. JPMC appears to have structured the sale of Polaroid so that none of its money would be used to complete the merger and cash out the shareholders, including Polaroid's largest and controlling shareholder, One Equity. JPMC also structured the transaction to ensure that it would generate significant investment banking fees and interest on loans that it would make *after* Petters and his business affiliates completed the funding and purchase of Polaroid. For example, JPMC served as Polaroid's investment advisor for the Merger. JPMC earned in excess of \$4 million for this service, which was paid out of the closing proceeds, thereby reducing the cash that would be left in Polaroid after it merged with PCB.
- 63. JPMC's multiple roles as seller, investment advisor to pre-Merger Polaroid, lender to post-Merger Polaroid, as well as personal investment advisor to Petters, created significant conflicts of interest. Because of these conflicts of interest, Polaroid was forced to hire Lehman Brothers to give a fairness opinion to pre-Merger Polaroid. On information and belief, Lehman Brothers was paid at least \$1.7 million by Polaroid for this fairness opinion, further reducing the cash that would be left in Polaroid when it was acquired by Petters.
- 64. The Merger was extremely lucrative for JPMC. Just two-and-a-half years after acquiring Polaroid's assets out of bankruptcy and after depleting Polaroid's cash to recoup its investment, JPMC orchestrated the sale of Polaroid for approximately \$426

million. JPMC received approximately \$240 million of the proceeds from the sale of Polaroid to Petters. This money represented substantial profit to JPMC because One Equity had already recouped nearly all the money it had invested when it bought Polaroid's assets out of bankruptcy two-and-a-half years earlier.

65. The \$240 million profit and \$4 million in advisor fees was not the only money that JPMC made as a result of the Polaroid Merger. On April 28, 2005, the day after the Merger closed and JPMC's Polaroid ownership had been transferred to PCB, JPMC closed on its \$185 million Credit Facility. This Credit Facility generated another \$4.5 million in commitment fees and as much as \$40 million in interest for JPMC and its lending partners.

# JPMC Conducts Due Diligence But Ignore Red Flags about Petters and his Fraudulent Businesses

- 66. In its role as investment advisor to Polaroid and as a lender to the post-Merger Polaroid, JPMC had an opportunity to conduct significant due diligence on Petters and his companies. For example, JPMC hired a private investigation firm to investigate Petters and other employees of Petters' businesses. This investigation revealed that Petters was named on 11 judgments. However, JPMC either failed to or chose not to follow up on this report that raised significant questions about Petters. Had it chose to follow-up on this red flag, JPMC would have discovered that Petters also had previously spent time in jail in Colorado arising out of fraud and forgery charges and had pled guilty to a theft charge in Minnesota.
  - 67. In addition to ignoring red flags raised about Petters' honesty and character,

JPMC knew or should have known that the PCB/Polaroid business combination was unsustainable given the significant post-Merger debt that Polaroid would have to service and the fact that Polaroid's higher-margin instant film business was fading away.

- 68. JPMC knew that that the combined company would begin its post-Merger life with at least \$310 million in debt. This included the \$125 million Term Loan and approximately \$60 million advanced on the \$225 million Revolver. It also included \$125 million in subordinated debt ("sub debt") that JPMC required Petters to obtain. Petters obtained the sub debt from Petters Capital, which in turn obtained the money from PCI and its investors. The interest rate on the JPMC \$125 million Term Loan exceeded 11%, the Revolver charged about 7% interest, and the interest rate on the \$125 million Petters Capital sub debt was set at 15%. JPMC knew all this debt would generate interest expense for post-Merger Polaroid in excess of \$35 million a year. More importantly, JPMC knew that most of this debt would be used to pay off loans that Petters and his stable of Ponzi-scheme lenders used to fund the escrow accounts and very little was left for working capital. In fact, of the \$310 million in initial financing, a total of \$304 million would be used to pay off debt that Petters had obtained from Ponzi-scheme lenders like Lancelot Funds, Metro-Gem and Epsilon/Stanford Towne. This would leave post-merger Polaroid with only about \$25 million of cash for operations.
- 69. But post-Merger Polaroid would need far more than \$25 million of cash to survive. Although the Polaroid business would generate some cash while the Polaroid instant film business was winding down, PCB's very low margin consumer electronics

business consumed huge amounts of cash. JPMC knew that in 2004 PCB lost over \$14 million on sales of \$282 million and had fallen well short of its budgeted gross margin.

- 70. Moreover, JPMC knew that to fund the huge increase in low-margin sales from \$282 million to \$600 million, PCB would need to borrow heavily to finance the required increase in inventory and receivables. In 2004, when PCB generated \$282 million in sales, PCB's operations used more than \$90 million in cash and had to generate \$98 million in cash through financing activities. Assuming PCB would need to use at least that much cash if it doubled sales in 2005, JPMC knew or should have known that the combined company would need to borrow in excess of \$100 million for working capital, even if Polaroid's core business generated cash as projected. This would mean that the combined company would have to service approximately \$400 million in debt in its first year and even more going forward, unless it sold assets to pay off the debt.
- 71. JPMC knew that the debt placed on post-merger Polaroid combined with the debt necessary to fund the low-margin, cash-burning consumer electronics business would leave Polaroid insolvent no later than 2008 and likely much sooner absent more Ponzi scheme funding from Petters. This put JPMC on notice that the sale of Polaroid and the Credit Facility could be set aside as fraudulent transfers if Polaroid were to become insolvent and file for bankruptcy. In fact, one of the lenders that JPMC was soliciting to participate in the Polaroid facility warned JPMC that "it appears that certain **fraudulent conveyance issues** may arise out of the acquisition, merger and loan and security transactions contemplated herein."

- 72. JPMC also had an opportunity to pry into the business of PCI, which JPMC knew or should have known was a Ponzi scheme. JPMC knew that PCI was the origin of at least \$150 million of equity that Petters was supposedly going to contribute to the merger and knew or should have known that PCI was the source for \$125 million of sub debt that JPMC required as a condition for providing the Credit Facility. Had JPMC inquired into PCI, it could have quickly learned not only that PCI lacked audited financial statements for most years, but also that it had not filed tax returns since 2002.
- 73. The PCI business model was highly suspect. Its business supposedly consisted of buying large amounts of "diverted" electronics and selling it to big box retailers such as Wal-Mart, Costco, and Sam's Club. However, JPMC knew or should have known that PCI was paying above-market interest rates to its lenders. JPMC knew or should have known that a business that relied on selling to legendary margin-cutters like Wal-Mart, Costco, and Sam's Club could not possibly operate a sustainable business if it had to pay interest rates from 15-24% or even higher to finance its inventory.
- 74. When JPMC did bother to ask about PCI's lenders, it was given evasive and incomplete answers. For instance in one email exchange, JPMC's attorneys asked for "all Petters debt documents." This boilerplate due diligence request was not unusual and should have been complied with easily. However, in response David Baer ("Baer"), an in-house attorney at PGW, expressed "significant anxiety" over disclosing such documents in part because:

these lenders have long and deep relationships with Petters. We use them in many parts of our enterprise. As of today they do NOT know that they

will be paid off at closing. When we tell them, there will be great pain for us

JPMC knew that this paranoid response was evasive and inaccurate. JPMC knew that this email was false and that the Ponzi scheme lenders such as Lancelot Funds and Metro Gem were aware they would be paid off after the merger and in fact JPMC received payoff letters from each such lender.

- 75. In addition to the patently false email response from Baer, JPMC also chose not to follow up on the very questionable answers it received to its rudimentary questions about the origins of the \$150 million in equity and \$125 million in sub debt that Petters was supposed to contribute to the Merger. In an April, 21, 2005, email, JPMC's attorney asked the CEO of PGW, Stuart Romenesko ("Romenesko"), about the origin of the \$150 million in equity. JPMC's attorney also asked for additional clarity on the identity of Lancelot, which had been identified as a lender to PCI and one of the supposed sub-debt investors.
- 76. Again, the response JPMC received was transparently evasive and incomplete. At a minimum, the response put JPMC squarely on notice that much of the funding for the Polaroid acquisition was coming from PCI. Romenesko told the attorney he would get back to him about Lancelot. With respect to the equity, Romenesko stated:

the equity for this transaction came from Petters Group World Wide (PGW) to Petters Consumer Brands (PCB) (since PCB is wholly owned by PGW) via an investment by Petters Company, Inc. (PCI and sister Company to PGW) PCI is an entity owned 100% by Petters and which has substantial built up equity. All of these entities (PGW, PCB and PCI) are controlled and owned by Petters and are set-up in this manner so that they operate as Independent Operating Companies as well as for tax purposes. The \$150 million of equity put into this transaction is the result of built in equity in

Petters Company, Inc. There are no other individuals (other than for Tom Petters himself) that own the equity put into this transaction.

- 77. Had JPMC properly followed up to verify this explanation, it would have learned that PCI had no real equity, had not even filed current tax returns, and had no current or properly audited financial statements. JPMC also did not inquire further into its unanswered questions about Lancelot. If it had, it would have discovered that the Lancelot Funds were nearly 100% invested in the Petters Ponzi scheme. Bell, Lancelot's founder and long time Petters associate, has since pleaded guilty to wire fraud in connection with his participation in the Petters Ponzi scheme and is currently serving a five-year prison sentence.
- 78. JPMC's due diligence efforts exposed these and other red flags that placed or should have placed JPMC on notice that Petters' money was derived from fraud.

  JPMC's due diligence efforts were performed on its own behalf as well as Polaroid's behalf, as it was acting as Polaroid's investment advisor on the negotiations and due diligence leading up to the Merger.

# JPMC Earns Millions More in Fees and Interest for its Post-Merger Financing

79. The day after the merger closed on April 27, 2005, JPMC closed on its \$185 million Credit Facility for the now Petters-owned Polaroid and took a first lien position on all of the combined company's assets, which Petters had just paid \$426 million to acquire. The first lien position would eliminate most of JPMC's risk and allow it to reap another \$4.5 million in commitment fees and over \$15 million annually in interest. The first lien position also gave JPMC enormous leverage, which it would use

later to pressure Polaroid to pay off the JPMC loans early as Polaroid teetered toward bankruptcy under the weight of its crippling debt.

- 80. The \$125 million Term Loan was used entirely to repay debt that Petters used from PCI and PCI investors to fund the Petters Escrow Accounts rather than using it as working capital for the benefit of Polaroid. On April 28, 2005, JPMC paid \$50 million to Epsilon/Stafford Towne, which had provided approximately \$100 million for the Polaroid transaction, and \$75 million to Lancelot Investments, which had provided more than \$200 million to fund the Petters Escrow Accounts.
- 81. JPMC knew or should have known that post-Merger Polaroid, burdened with staggering debt, a crumbling core business and the low margin PCB consumer electronics business, would not be able to survive long term. To ensure that it would be repaid before Polaroid was forced into bankruptcy, JPMC began to pressure Petters to sell off Polaroid assets so it could pay off the JPMC loans early. In response to this pressure, PCB repaid the 6-year Term Loan in a little over two years, largely through proceeds from the sale of Polaroid real estate and intellectual property. Despite being paid off four years early on the Term Loan, JPMC continued to pressure Polaroid to pay off the fiveyear Revolver, which it did in February 2008. JPMC knew that Polaroid was losing money and did not have the cash available to pay off JPMC. JPMC also knew that to pay off the JPMC loans early, Polaroid would be forced to obtain more Ponzi scheme money from Petters and PCI. Having been pressured to pay down the JPMC loans early, in 2007 Polaroid was forced to borrow \$40 million of Ponzi scheme proceeds from PCI at 24% interest

- 82. Between JPMC's profit on the sale of Polaroid, its investment advisor fees and the interest and fees it earned on its Credit Facility, JPMC received in excess of \$280 million as a result of the Polaroid transaction with Petters and PCB. Polaroid, however, was never profitable after the Merger and filed bankruptcy on December 18, 2008, approximately three and a half years after the Merger. On April 16, 2009, most of the assets of Polaroid were sold out of bankruptcy through an auction for approximately \$86 million.
- 83. In addition to the \$280 million described above, PGW also paid sums to JPMC to pay down its credit line ("the Obligation"). On September 17, 2008, PGW made a transfer of \$150,000 to pay down its credit line with JPMC. On September 18, 2008, PGW made another transfer of \$150,000 to pay down its credit line with JPMC. Collectively these two payments of \$150,000 are referred to as "the Transfers".
- 84. Because the Transfers occurred within 90 days of PGW's bankruptcy filing they are likely avoidable preferences under the bankruptcy code. To the extent that any of the recovery counts may be inconsistent with each other, they are to be treated as being pled in the alternative.
- 85. During the course of this adversary proceeding, the Trustee may learn (through discovery or otherwise) of additional transfers made to Defendants. It is the Trustee's intention to avoid and recover all transfers made by the Debtor of an interest of the Debtor in property and to or for the benefit of the Defendants or any other transferee. The Trustee reserves the right to amend this original Complaint as to include: (i) further information regarding the Transfers and the Obligation, (ii) additional transfers, (iii)

modifications or revisions to Defendants' names, (iv) additional defendants, or (v) additional causes of action (i.e., but not exclusively, 11 U.S.C. §542, §544, §545, §547, §548 and §549) (collectively, the "Amendments"), that may become known to the Trustee at any time during this adversary proceeding, through formal discovery or otherwise, and for the Amendments to relate back to this original Complaint.

## COUNT I – PREFERENTIAL TRANSFERS

## 11 U.S.C. §§ 547, 550, 551 and 1106

- 86. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 87. At the time of the Transfers, one or both of the Defendants was a "creditor" of PGW within the meaning of section 101(10) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 88. Each of the Transfers constitutes a transfer of an interest of PGW in property within the meaning of section 101(54) of the Bankruptcy Code.
  - 89. Each of the Transfers was to or for the benefit of Defendants.
- 90. Each of the Transfers was made for or on account of an antecedent debt owed by PGW before such transfer was made.
  - 91. Each of the Transfers was made while PGW was insolvent.
- 92. Each of the Transfers was made during the relevant preference time period under Section 547(b)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 93. Each of the Transfers enabled Defendants to receive more than they would receive if (i) this case was a case under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code, (ii) the

transfers had not been made, and (iii) Defendants received payment of such debt to the extent provided by the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.

- 94. Each of the Preference Period Transfers constitutes a preferential transfer avoidable by the Trustee pursuant to section 547(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and recoverable from Defendants pursuant to section 550(a).
- 95. To the extent that either Defendant is not an initial transferee of the Transfers, it is an immediate or mediate transferee of the initial transferee of the Transfers, and upon information and belief, cannot satisfy its burden that it took the Transfers for value and in good faith and without knowledge of the voidability of the Transfers, or is the entity or individual for whose benefit such Transfers occurred.
- 96. As a result of the foregoing, the Trustee is entitled to a judgment pursuant to sections 547(b), 550, and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code: (a) avoiding the Obligation and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.

## **COUNT II – TURNOVER AND ACCOUNTING**

### 11 U.S.C. § 542

- 97. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 98. The Transfers constitute property of the estate to be recovered and administered by the Trustee pursuant to section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.

- 99. As a result of the foregoing, pursuant to section 542 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Trustee is entitled to the immediate payment and turnover from Defendants of any and all of the Transfers made by PGW, directly or indirectly, to Defendants
- 100. As a result of the foregoing, pursuant to section 542 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Trustee is also entitled to an accounting of all such Transfers received by Defendants from PGW, directly or indirectly.

## <u>COUNT III – FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS</u>

## Actual Fraud – 11 U.S.C. §§ 548(a)(1)(A), 550(a), 551 and 1106

- 101. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 102. The Transfers and the Obligation represent transfers that were made or obligations that were incurred with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud a creditor to which the Debtor was or became indebted on or after the date of the Fraudulent Transfers.
- 103. The Transfers and the Obligation were made to or for the benefit of Defendants in furtherance of a fraudulent investment Ponzi scheme.
- 104. The Transfers and the Obligation constitute a fraudulent transfer avoidable by the Trustee pursuant to section 548(a)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code and recoverable from Defendants pursuant to section 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 105. To the extent that either Defendant is not an initial transferee of the Transfers and the Obligation, it is an immediate or mediate transferee of the initial transferee of the Transfers and the Obligation, and upon information and belief, cannot

satisfy its burden that it took the Transfers for value and in good faith and without knowledge of the voidability of the Transfers, or is the entity or individual for whose benefit such Transfers occurred.

106. As a result of the foregoing, the Trustee is entitled to judgment pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §§ 548(a)(1)(A), 550(a), 551 and 1106: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers and Obligation be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers and any other payments related to the Obligation or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.

## <u>COUNT IV – FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS</u>

## Constructive Fraud – 11 U.S.C. §§ 548(a)(1)(B), 550(a), 551 and 1106

- 107. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- Transfers and/or the Obligation were made were made or became insolvent as a result, and/or (b) was engaged in businesses or transactions, or were about to engage in businesses or transactions, for which the property remaining with the Debtor after the Transfers and/or the Obligation were effectuated constituted unreasonably small capital, and/or (c) at the time of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts that would be beyond its ability to pay as the debts matured.

- 109. The Debtor received less than a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers and/or the Obligation.
- 110. The Transfers and/or the Obligation constitute fraudulent transfers avoidable by the Trustee pursuant to section 548(a)(1)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code and recoverable from Defendants pursuant to section 550(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 111. To the extent that either Defendant is not an initial transferee of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, it is an immediate or mediate transferee of the initial transferee of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, and upon information and belief, cannot satisfy its burden that it took the Transfers and/or the Obligation for value and in good faith and without knowledge of the voidability of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, or is the entity or individual for whose benefit such Transfers and/or the Obligation occurred.
- 112. As a result of the foregoing, the Trustee is entitled to judgment pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §§ 548(a)(1)(B), 550(a), 551 and 1106: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers and/or the Obligation be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.

## **COUNT V – FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS**

Actual Fraud - 11 U.S.C. §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106 & Minn. Stat. §§ 513.44(a)(1) and 513.47 or Other Governing Fraudulent Transfer Laws

- 113. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 114. At all times material hereto, there was and is at least one or more creditors who held and who hold unsecured claims against the Debtor that was and is allowable under Bankruptcy Code § 502 or that was and is not allowable only under Bankruptcy Code § 502(e). The Transfers and the Obligation are avoidable under applicable nonbankruptcy law by a creditor holding an unsecured claim in the bankruptcy case.
- 115. The Transfers and the Obligation represent transfers that were made or obligations that were incurred with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud a creditor to which the Debtor was or became indebted on or after the date of the Transfers.
- 116. The Transfers were made to or for the benefit of Defendants in furtherance of a fraudulent investment scheme.
- 117. To the extent that either Defendant is not an initial transferee of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, it is an immediate or mediate transferee of the initial transferee of the Transfers, and upon information and belief, cannot satisfy its burden that it took the Transfers and/or the Obligation for value and in good faith and without knowledge of the voidability of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, or is the entity or individual for whose benefit such Preference Period Transfers occurred.

118. As a result of the foregoing, the Trustee is entitled to judgment pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106, Minn. Stat. §§ 513.44(a)(1) and 513.47, and if the Court should determine that this action is governed by the laws of other states, the fraudulent transfer laws of such other states: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the bankruptcy estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.

### <u>COUNT VI – FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS</u>

Constructive Fraud - 11 U.S.C. §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106 & Minn. Stat. §§ 513.44(a)(2)(i) and 513.47 or Other Governing Fraudulent Transfer Laws

- 119. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 120. At all times material hereto, there was and is at least one or more creditors who held and who hold unsecured claims against the Debtor that was and is allowable under Bankruptcy Code § 502 or that were and are not allowable only under Bankruptcy Code § 502(e). The Transfers and the Obligation are avoidable under applicable nonbankruptcy law by a creditor holding an unsecured claim in the bankruptcy cases.
- 121. At all times material hereto, the Debtor was engaged in businesses or transactions, or was about to engage in businesses or transactions, for which the property

remaining with the Debtor after the Transfers and/or the Obligation were effectuated constituted unreasonably small capital.

- 122. The Debtor received less than a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers and/or the Obligation.
- 123. To the extent that either Defendant is not an initial transferee of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, it is an immediate or mediate transferee of the initial transferee of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, and upon information and belief, cannot satisfy its burden that it took the Transfers and/or the Obligation for value and in good faith and without knowledge of the voidability of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, or is the entity or individual for whose benefit such Transfers and/or the Obligation occurred.
- 124. As a result of the foregoing, the Trustee is entitled to judgment pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106, Minn. Stat. §§ 513.44(a)(2)(i) and 513.47, and if the Court should determine that this action is governed by the laws of other states, the fraudulent transfer laws of such other states: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers and/or the Obligation be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the bankruptcy estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.

## **COUNT VII – FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS**

Constructive Fraud - 11 U.S.C. §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106 & Minn. Stat. §§ 513.44(a)(2)(ii) and 513.47 or Other Governing Fraudulent Transfer Laws

- 125. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 126. At all times material hereto, there was and is at least one or more creditors who held and who hold unsecured claims against the Debtor that was and is allowable under Bankruptcy Code § 502 or that was and is not allowable only under Bankruptcy Code § 502(e). The Transfers and the Obligation are avoidable under applicable nonbankruptcy law by a creditor holding an unsecured claim in the bankruptcy case.
- 127. At all times material hereto, PGW, at the time of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts that would be beyond its ability to pay as the debts matured.
- 128. PGW received less than a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers and/or the Obligation.
- Transfers and/or the Obligation, it is an immediate or mediate transferee of the initial transferee of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, and upon information and belief, cannot satisfy its burden that it took the Transfers and/or the Obligation for value and in good faith and without knowledge of the voidability of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, or is the entity or individual for whose benefit such Transfers occurred.

130. As a result of the foregoing, the Trustee is entitled to judgment pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106, Minn. Stat. §§ 513.44(a)(2)(ii) and 513.47, and if the Court should determine that this action is governed by the laws of other states, the fraudulent transfer laws of such other states: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers and/or the Obligation be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the bankruptcy estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.

### COUNT VIII – FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS

Constructive Fraud - 11 U.S.C. §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106 & Minn. Stat. §§ 513.45(a) and 513.47 or Other Governing Fraudulent Transfer Laws

- 131. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 132. At all times material hereto, there was and is at least one or more creditors who held and who hold unsecured claims against the Debtor that was and is allowable under Bankruptcy Code § 502 or that was and is not allowable only under Bankruptcy Code § 502(e). The Transfers and the Obligation are avoidable under applicable nonbankruptcy law by a creditor holding an unsecured claim in the bankruptcy case.
- 133. At all times material hereto, the Debtor, at the time of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, was insolvent or, in the alternative, the Debtor became insolvent as a result of the Transfers and/or the Obligation.

- 134. The Debtor received less than a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the Transfers and/or the Obligation.
- 135. To the extent that either Defendant is not an initial transferee of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, it is an immediate or mediate transferee of the initial transferee of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, and upon information and belief, cannot satisfy its burden that it took the Transfers and/or the Obligation for value and in good faith and without knowledge of the voidability of the Transfers and/or the Obligation, or is the entity or individual for whose benefit such Transfers and/or the Obligation occurred.
- 136. As a result of the foregoing, the Trustee is entitled to judgment pursuant to Bankruptcy Code §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106, Minn. Stat. §§ 513.45(a) and 513.47, and if the Court should determine that this action is governed by the laws of other states, the fraudulent transfer laws of such other states: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers and/or the Obligation be set aside, (c) recovering such Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the bankruptcy estates of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.

#### **COUNT IX – DISALLOWANCE**

### 11 U.S.C. § 502(b) and (d)

137. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

- 138. To the extent that Defendants assert they are entitled to any claim in this bankruptcy case, directly on their own account or indirectly by virtue of any other agreement with Petters, PGW, PCI, or any of their affiliates, such claim is unenforceable against the Debtors or the property of the Debtors under any agreement or applicable law and should be disallowed under 11 U.S.C. § 502(b).
- 139. Further, any claim of an entity from which property is recoverable under 11 U.S.C. § 550 or held by a transferee of a transfer that is avoided under 11 U.S.C. §§ 544 or 548 shall be disallowed by the Court unless under 11 U.S.C §502(d) such entity or transferee has paid the amount, or turned over any such property, for which such entity or transferee is liable.
- 140. As a result of the foregoing, to the extent that Defendants assert they are entitled to any claim in this bankruptcy case, directly on their own account or indirectly by virtue of any other agreement with Petters, PGW, PCI or any of their affiliates, all such claims are and should be in all things disallowed.

## <u>COUNT X – UNJUST ENRICHMENT/EQUITABLE DISGORGEMENT</u>

- 141. The Trustee realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 142. At all times relevant hereto, all funds received by Defendants were part and parcel of the Ponzi Scheme and were derived from monies fraudulently obtained by Petters, PCI and PGW and from other investors or participants in the Ponzi Scheme.
- 143. Defendants, as the recipients of fraudulently obtained proceeds of the Ponzi Scheme have no rightful or legitimate claim to any monies received from PGW.

- 144. Defendants knowingly received monies from the Ponzi scheme, were unjustly enriched through its receipt of the fraudulently obtained monies to the detriment of other investors in PCI or PGW, and in equity and good conscience must be required to repay the proceeds received.
- 145. Defendants would be unjustly enriched to the extent they are allowed to retain the monies and proceeds received during their participation in the Ponzi scheme.
- 146. Defendants must, therefore, in equity be required to disgorge all proceeds received through the operation of the Ponzi scheme, so as to allow the Trustee to distribute in equity any such ill-gotten gains among all innocent investors and creditors of PCI and PGW.

**WHEREFORE**, the Trustee respectfully requests this Court enter judgment in favor of Plaintiffs and against Defendants as follows:

- A. On Count I Preferential Transfers, pursuant to sections 547(b), 550(a) and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code: (a) avoiding the Obligation and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest by JPMC, (b) directing that the Transfers be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.
- B. On Count II –Turnover And Accounting, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 542, 550(a), and 551 of the Bankruptcy Code: (a) that the property that was the subject of the Transfers be immediately delivered and turned

over to the Trustee, and (b) for an accounting by Defendants of the property that was the subject of the Transfers or the value of such property.

- C. On Count III Fraudulent Transfers (Actual Fraud), pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 548(a)(1)(A), 550(a), 551 and 1106: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers and/or the Obligation be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interests, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.
- D. On Count IV Fraudulent Transfers (Constructive Fraud), pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 548(a)(1)(B), 550(a), 551, and 1106: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers and/or the Obligation be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.
- E. On Count V Fraudulent Transfers (Actual Fraud), pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106, Minn. Stat. §§ 513.44(a)(1) and 513.47, and if the Court should determine that this action is governed by the laws of other states, the fraudulent transfer laws of such other states: (a)

avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the bankruptcy estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.

- F. On Count VI Fraudulent Transfers (Constructive Fraud), pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106, Minn. Stat. §§ 513.44(a)(2)(i) and 513.47, and if the Court should determine that this action is governed by the laws of other states, the fraudulent transfer laws of such other states: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers and/or the Obligation be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the bankruptcy estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.
- G. On Count VII Fraudulent Transfers (Constructive Fraud), pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551 and 1106, Minn. Stat. §§ 513.44(a)(2)(ii) and 513.47, and if the Court should determine that this action is governed by the laws of other states, the fraudulent transfer laws of such other states: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b)

directing that the Transfers be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the bankruptcy estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.

- H. On Count VIII Fraudulent Transfers (Constructive Fraud), pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 544(b), 550(a), 551, and 1106, Minn. Stat. §§ 513.45(a) and 513.47, and if the Court should determine that this action is governed by the laws of other states, the fraudulent transfer laws of such other states: (a) avoiding the Obligation and avoiding and preserving the Transfers free and clear from any claimed interest of Defendants, (b) directing that the Transfers and/or the Obligation be set aside, (c) recovering the Transfers or the value thereof from Defendants for the benefit of the bankruptcy estate of PGW, and (d) recovering prejudgment and post-judgment interest, attorneys' fees and costs from Defendants.
- I. On Count IX Disallowance, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 502(b) and (d): declaring and ordering that, to the extent that Defendants assert they are entitled to any claim in this bankruptcy case, directly on their own account or indirectly by virtue of any other agreement with Petters, PCI, PGW or any of their affiliates, all such claims are in all things disallowed;
- J. On Count X Unjust Enrichment/Equitable Disgorgement, ordering that Defendants disgorge all proceeds received through the operation of the Ponzi scheme.

- K. On all Claims for Relief, establishment of a constructive trust over the proceeds of the transfers in favor of the Trustee for the benefit of PCI's estate;
- L. Awarding the Trustee all applicable interest (including prejudgment and post-judgment interest), attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements in this action; and
- M. Granting the Trustee such other, further and different relief as the Court deems just, proper and equitable.

Dated: October 10, 2010 FRUTH JAMISON & ELSASS, PLLC

By: s/ Thomas E. Jamison

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